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**STATE OF HAWAII  
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION**

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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

April 6, 2015

TO: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
House Committee on Finance

The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Finance

Members of the House Committee on Finance

FROM: Kristin Izumi-Nitao, Executive Director *KI*  
Campaign Spending Commission

SUBJECT: **Testimony on S.B. No. 508, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, Relating to Campaign Finance**

Tuesday, April 7, 2015  
2:30 p.m., Conference Room 308

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. The Campaign Spending Commission ("Commission") supports the intent of this bill.

This bill amends Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS") §11-336(a), by adding an additional preliminary report due prior to the general election for noncandidate committees. Presently, noncandidate committees must file a disclosure report 10 calendar days prior to the general election. This measure would require noncandidate committees to file an additional preliminary general report on October 1<sup>st</sup> of a general election year.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Friday, April 03, 2015 1:26 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: christinet54@gmail.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB508 on Apr 7, 2015 14:30PM

**SB508**

Submitted on: 4/3/2015

Testimony for FIN on Apr 7, 2015 14:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
christine trecker	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Public disclosure of campaign spending is of little use to voters if it does not provide sufficient, timely information. I strongly support this bill which requires noncandidate committees to file reports on both Oct 1st and 10 calendar days prior to an election.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**LATE**

House Finance Committee  
Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Scott Nishimoto

Tuesday 04/07/2015 at 2:30 PM in Room 308  
SB508 Relating to Campaign Finance

TESTIMONY OF SUPPORT  
Carmille Lim, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

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Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Committee members:

**Common Cause Hawaii supports SB508**, which would require noncandidate committees to file preliminary reports on October 1 of a general election year in addition to ten days prior to the general election.

The 2014 election cycle had an unprecedented amount of “outside” money spent in Hawaii elections -- As of October 30, 2014, just days before the general election Campaign Spending Reports showed that:

- \$10,168,732 Super PAC money was already spent on ballot initiatives.
- \$5.9 million Super PAC money was spent on opposing/supporting candidates.

Media reports confirmed that voters were getting inundated with mailers from noncandidate committees -- independent groups -- urging voters to cast their ballot a certain way. This only increased as we got closer to Election Day. Currently, the Campaign Spending Commission requires these noncandidate committees (particularly the Super PACS -- also known as “independent” groups, “outside” groups) file reports indicating how much they spend, 10 days before a general election. This is not sufficient in educating voters who are interested in knowing this information, as there is a trend of people who cast their ballot by mail, or by early walk-in voting, which starts before the current filing deadline. Therefore, in order to ensure a transparent election whereby noncandidate committees disclose their spending in time educate early voters, we support adding an October 1<sup>st</sup> noncandidate committee preliminary (campaign spending) report deadline.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify **in support of SB508**.